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28 NOV 1979

Document No. <u>10</u>
No Change in Class. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified
Class. Change No. 73 3 @ 1489
Auth: 67330N 1979
Date: _____ By: _____

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Chief, FE Support [redacted]

Chief, [redacted]

- Support
- Assistance to Southeast Asia Stations

ACTION REQUIRED - None that has not already been directed.

Dear [redacted]

Since my return there have been a multitude of things to catch up on and I am sure you realize that events in other parts of the world have taken priority for the last couple of weeks or more. I did want to elaborate a little bit, however, on my cables to you concerning increased support to the Southeast Asia stations.

As you know, it was my observation that some of these stations were not as well supported as those in North Asia. I should like to make it clear that I am not interested in placing the blame for this at any particular door. In fact, I think that the blame would have to be spread around quite widely. In part, it is the fault of headquarters, and in some cases the fault of the stations themselves. At [redacted] for example, I found the Chief of Station about ready to go to [redacted] buy furniture out of his own pocket to furnish his house in keeping with his position. Having seen so much furniture in so many warehouses, this, of course, was very surprising to me. He was pleased to find that we could take care of this situation without the expenditure of his personal funds, and he and his wife thought that I was a real Santa Claus when I assured them that we could provide limited quantities of eating utensils, bed linen, etc., for the use of incoming personnel before their household goods arrived, and for outgoing personnel after their household goods were packed. [redacted] was, in my judgment, in much worse condition and much less knowledgeable than [redacted]. They need help in leasing housing, and there are many things which we could do to make their life more comfortable. A few hunting rifles, decent saddles, and some relief in transportation would make their situation a great deal more pleasant.

I am sure that I don't need to elaborate further, but I was appalled

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at the lack of knowledge on the part of these people as to what our support capabilities were. They simply don't have anyone who has been trained in our business. I felt that some senior person from your staff who knew what our capabilities were and how to make use of them should go to these stations, spend enough time to become familiar at firsthand with their problems, and say to themselves, "Knowing the support capabilities, including what we have in warehouses, etc., if I were the Chief of Station here what would I do in order to make our living and working conditions as comfortable and efficient as possible under the circumstances?" With the approval of the station chief he should then take the appropriate action and merely show him where to sign his name.

I am sure that the wording of the Support [ ] Directive has contributed to this situation, and, as I have already said, I have no real interest in tracing back the reasons for this. Suffice it to say that everyone here, including [ ], feels that these stations are entitled to the best that we can provide, and there is no thought of differentiating between the old North Asia and Southeast Asia stations.

With regard to your next assignment, I do hope and expect to get this completely sorted out within a matter of days and to advise you. I know that this is terribly important to your personal plans, and I shall do everything possible to insure that the answer is forthcoming in the shortest possible time.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. K. White

DD/S:LKW:laq

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/s/

L. K. White

Deputy Director (Support)

Chief, FE Division

(Releasing Official) Approved For Release 2006/01/10 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000200150011-3

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